

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

Claims 3-6 and 12 have been canceled to expedite examination.

Each of the two remaining independent claims 1 and 7 has been amended.

Claim 1 recites a rotary cutting head for cutting rock by crushing, including a cone cutter rotatably mounted by bearings on a support. The cone cutter includes rows of crushing elements that are welded to a base body with electric current.

Claim 7 recites a rotary cone cutter adapted to be mounted on a rotary cutting head for cutting rock by rotary crushing. Like claim 1, claim 7 recites that the crushing elements are welded to a base body with an electric current.

Dependent claims 13 and 14 further specify that the welding is electric arc welding.

Welding with electric current produces a pool of molten metal that solidifies to form the metallurgical bond. In contrast, the friction welding technique preferred by the Drake patent cited in the rejection of claims 1 and 7 relies upon friction and pressure to create a bond without melting. The friction is generated by spinning one of the parts relative to the other. In contrast, the presently claimed invention specifies a structure wherein the crushing elements are secured by a bond formed by electric current, thus avoiding the need to spin any parts.

Accordingly, even if, for the sake of argument, it were considered obvious to combine Scott et al., Young et al. and Drake as proposed in the Official action, the presently claimed invention would not result.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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